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COMOR-M-22

COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Room 429
Matomic Building, Central Intelligence Agency
at 9:30 am, 27 April 1961

PRESIDING

James Q. Reber
Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT

Col. J. E. Mahon, JCS
Maj. J. D. Bowlby, OACSI
Capt. F. M. Murphy, ONI

Maj. G. S. Chapman, AFCIN
Mr. F. A. Voigt, CIA

CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Lt. Col. W. C. Herrington, JCS
Lt. Col. R. D. Ragsdale, JCS
Cdr. H. D. Myles, ONI
Lt. L. C. Martinez, ONI
Lt. L. A. Stolle, ONI

Maj. S. J. Moran, AFCIN

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Cuban Photography

1. Captain Murphy reported that he and Commander Myles had visited yesterday CINCLANT and carefully gone over the needs of CINCLANT to meet his operational responsibilities. In the light of that discussion he passed to the Chairman of COMOR a document (NP-00075) outlining the targets which were requested for weekly coverage of Cuba.

2. These requirements as submitted represent also the needs of the JCS, Army, and Air Force.

3. It was agreed that the necessity for the photo interpreters in Del Rio to remain there should be re-examined after the next mission. The Navy representative will provide to [] of NPIC requirements to be accomplished by the team at Del Rio as well as the

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more extended requirements which should be used as a guide in the preparation of the supplement once the film has returned to Headquarters.

4. Captain Murphy requested that communication arrangements be established to transmit the preliminary interpretation accomplished at Del Rio to the CIA representative attached to CINCLANT in order to expedite the delivery to CINCLANT. (The Chairman requested Captain Murphy to remain after the meeting to discuss this matter with DPD/Communications Officer, [REDACTED])

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5. The COMOR believes that the events of the last few days have made plausible the possibility of photo reconnaissance over Cuba other than by the U-2. Accordingly it believes that the release on a sanitized basis of TALENT photography would not point to the U-2 or could be plausibly denied. Meanwhile contingency planning of the JCS and CINCLANT requires that the material be made available on a SECRET NOFORN basis. Accordingly the COMOR recommends that in view of the developments of the last few weeks photography acquired over Cuba should be handled as normal TALENT and subject to the provisions of the TALENT Manual on Sanitization without reference to any cutoff date (1 January 1960) as in the original USIB decision and that information derived from TALENT photography should be released as SECRET NOFORN attributable only to "reliable sources." Queries as to sources should be handled in the same fashion as has been applicable under the release established in the TALENT Sanitization Manual.

Emergency Packages Bearing on the Cuban and Laotian Situation

6. The COMOR confirmed that the release to SECRET NOFORN of TALENT materials in emergency packages for military forces in the field heretofore applicable in certain areas of the world likewise is applicable in emergencies bearing on the Cuban and Laotian situations. This is not a new decision but a re-affirmation of the applicability of a provision of the TALENT Security Manual in these two current cases.

Security Handling of Photography Bearing upon the Laotian Situation

7. The COMOR recommends that the photography which may become available bearing on the Laotian situation should be subject to the downgrading procedures already approved by the USIB under COMOR-D-22/4.

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Review of Inter-Agency Communications for Reconnaissance Reporting

8. Prompted by the needs of CINCLANT for immediate reporting on the Cuban situation, Major Moran suggested that communications arrangements should be established which would permit in any eventuality and regarding any area of the world the most expeditious communications of preliminary reporting necessary for the ZI and theater users.

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JAMES Q. REBER

Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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3--OSD

4--JCS TCO

5--OACSI TCO

6, 7--ONI TCO

8, 9--AFCIN TCO

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Copy 1--DDP

12--AC/DPD

13--DDI(P) TCO

14--OCI TCO

15--OSI TCO

16--ORR TCO

17--DIR NPIC

18--TSO CIA

19--C/DMD/NPIC

20--C/DMD/NPIC

21--DDP TCO

22--Intel Staff/DPD

23--SO/DPD

24- 26--C/SRS/DPD/DDP

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